

Totogatic River Wildlife Area Master Plan Summary of Public Meeting and Public Comments

Public open house: February 2, 2017, 4-6pm at the Hayward High School
Approximately 42 people attended. Several DNR resource managers from fisheries, forestry, facilities and lands were present to answer questions and talk with participants.

Public comment period: January 31-February 23, 2017

Paper copy surveys/letters received: 16

Online Surveys received: 63

Survey results:

- Most (greater than 85%) survey respondents were from the general public and live near the property.
- Top six uses of the property (in order):
 1. Fishing 70% of survey participants
 2. Wildlife viewing 65%
 3. Hunting 60%
 4. Kayaking/canoeing 58%
 5. Bird watching 51%
 6. Photography 44%
- Property Strengths (in order of frequency mentioned):
 1. Undeveloped property, quiet and scenic
 2. Variety of wildlife/wetland habitat
 3. Fishing
 4. Hunting
 5. Waterfowl habitat
 6. Accessibility and proximity to Hayward
 7. Canoe/kayak access
- Additional uses or enhancements for consideration on property (in order of frequency mentioned):
 1. Nothing- leave the property as is
 2. Boat landing improvements
 3. Better waterfowl habitat
 4. Plant wild rice
 5. Manage for invasive plants/ability to fluctuate water levels
- Perceived weaknesses of the property (in order of frequency mentioned):
 1. None- like the property as is
 2. Poor quality habitat/lack of food for waterfowl
 3. Boat launch improvements needed
 4. Water level management/ ability to fluctuate or raise water levels
 5. Invasive plants (cat tails)

- Summary of general comments received:

Several comments reflected the desire to manage the property “as is” as a flowage and to repair/replace the dam. Many commenters value the property as a quiet, secluded, wildlife preserve that provides some habitat for waterfowl and fishing opportunities. Other comments included the desire to have more active waterfowl habitat management (mostly through rebuilding a dam with water level fluctuation capabilities). There also were some comments regarding returning the waterbody to its original state and removing the dam.

